

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 FEA-02 AID-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2591

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USAEC WASHDC

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 09646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, UK

SUBJECT: CEGB BOARD MEMBER RESIGNS BECAUSE OF REACTOR
CHOICE

REF: LONDON 8662

1. FOLLOWING IS THE PARTIAL TEXT OF A CEGB PRESS RELEASE
DATED JULY 26: "MR. DONALD CLARK RESIGNS FROM CEGB - THE
CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD REGRETS TO ANNOUNCE

BOARD, HAS RESIGNED. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
HAS ACCEPTED HIS RESIGNATION WHICH IS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE
AT A DATE TO BE AGREED.

MR. CLARK HAS RESIGNED BECAUSE HE DOES NOT FEEL ABLE TO
GO ALONG WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S CHOICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR.
THE ISSUES INVOLVED ARE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX AND IT WAS
TIME TO BE COMING TO A DECISION. BUT HE BELIEVES THAT
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AN OPPORTUNITY OF GREAT VALUE AND IMPORTANCE TO BOTH

THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY AND TO BRITISH PLANT MANUFACTURERS HAS BEEN LOST; AND THAT THE STEAM GENERATING HEAVY WATER REACTOR (SGHWR) IS NOT IN A STATE OF INDUSTRIAL READINESS THAT CAN BE MADE TO YIELD BENEFITS TO THIS COUNTRY'S ENERGY ECONOMY COMPARABLE WITH THOSE OF A PROGRAM OF BRITISH-BUILT LIGHT WATER REACTORS".

2. PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF OUR INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OVER RECENT MONTHS, WE WERE ALERTED TO THIS DEVELOPMENT THE AFTERNOON OF THE 26TH BY CEGB MIDDLE-LEVEL OFFICIALS. THE FINANCIAL TIMES AND THE TIMES CARRIED THE STORY ON THE BACK PAGES OF THEIR ISSUES OF JULY 27. NO FURTHER COMMENT HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION.
SOHM

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To: STATE
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